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Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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CONTENTS

19 December 1989

NOTICE TO READERS: * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

ACP, EEC Sign Fourth Lome Convention 15 Dec	1
France's Rocard, Togo's Eyadema Speak [Lome Radio]	1
Rocard Speaks at Airport, Departs [Lome Radio]	2

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

Mozambique's Chissano 'Ready' for Talks [AFP]	4
Frontline States Applaud UN Declaration [Windhoek Radio]	4
Kolingba Closes 25th UDEAC Summit in Bangui [Libreville Africa No 1]	4
3 UDEAC Presidents Depart [Bangui Radio]	4
FOSIDEC Ends Meeting; 1990 Budget Adopted [Ouagadougou Radio]	5
Zambia, Zimbabwe Work on Zambezi River Project [Lusaka Radio]	5

CENTRAL AFRICA

Congo

* UTA Reduces Service; Security Insufficient [Victoria SEYCHELLES NATION 13 Oct]	6
--	---

Zaire

Mozambique's Chissano Urges Mobutu Mediation [Dar es Salaam Radio]	6
Mobutu Ready To Mediate [AFP]	6

EAST AFRICA

Ethiopia

Eritrean Rebels Continue To Make Battle Claims [Voice of Eritrean Broad Masses]	7
---	---

Kenya

Ethiopian Government Official Arrives 16 Dec [KNA]	7
--	---

Somalia

SNM Rebels Report Ceel Madow Battle Victory [Radio of Somali National Movement]	7
Air Raids in South Reported [Radio of Somali National Movement]	7

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

UK's Thatcher Said To Request Mandela Release [SAPA]	8
No Official Communication Received [SAPA]	8
Denard, 3 Comoros Mercenaries Still in Country [Johannesburg International]	8
Commentary Views De Klerk Visit to Mozambique [Johannesburg International]	8
ANC Calls for Student Groups To Unite [NEW NATION 15-19 Dec]	9
19 Dec Press Review on Current Problems, Issues [THE CITIZEN, etc.]	9

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Angola

UNITA Reports Catholic Bishops' Letter [Voice of the Black Cockerel]	13
Government Signs Fourth Lome Convention [ANGOP]	14

Comoros

Intensive Political Debate 'in Full Swing' 18 Dec [AFP]	14
Flights With Madagascar To Resume 18 Dec [Moroni Radio]	14
Public Urged To Spare Presidential Guard [Moroni Radio]	15
Investigation of Abdallah's Death Planned [Moroni Radio]	15

Mauritius

* MMM Proposals on Chagos Island, Peace Zone [LE NOUVEAU MILITANT 12 Nov]	15
* PM Denies Wanting To Sell Chagos Islands [LE MAURICIEN 25 Nov]	16
* Appointment of New NIU Director Announced [THE SUN 13 Nov]	17
* Press Corrects Report of Iraqi Mission [THE SUN 15 Nov]	17
* Economy Requires Technology, Foreign Know-How [LE MAURICIEN 26 Oct]	17
* Unemployment Dropping; Ministry Report Cited [LE MAURICIEN 27 Sep]	18
* Hiring of Foreign Workers Approved	18
* Labor Shortage Cited [LE MAURICIEN 10 Nov]	18
* Three Sectors Authorized [THE SUN 11 Nov]	19
* Finance Minister on Labor Shortage, Growth [LE MAURICIEN 21 Oct]	19

Mozambique

RSA's De Klerk, Chissano Hold News Conference [Maputo International]	20
Chissano Announces Presidential Elections in 1991 [Lisbon Radio]	21

Namibia

South Africa To Reduce Walvis Bay Troop Presence [SAPA]	21
---	----

Zimbabwe

Mozambique's Chissano Extends Stay Until 17 Dec [SAPA]	22
No Details on Talks [Maputo Radio]	22
Departs 17 Dec [SAPA]	22

WEST AFRICA

Benin

Situation 'Gradually Returning to Normal' [AFP]	23
Exile Returns, Meets Kerekou [Cotonou Radio]	23
Media Workers Begin Strike [Libreville Africa No 1]	24
Civil Servants To Strike 19 Dec [BBC]	24

The Gambia

Jawara on 'Rapid Normalization' of Senegal Ties [AFP]	25
---	----

Mali

CPSU Delegation Arrives for Visit 16 Dec [Bamako Radio]	25
---	----

Senegal

Police Arrest Opposition Leader, Disperse Crowd [AFP]	26
Opposition Leader Released [AFP]	26
Opposition Journalist Said Freed [AFP]	26

Togo

France's Rocard Discusses Role in Comoros [AFP]	26
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ACP, EEC Sign Fourth Lome Convention 15 Dec

France's Rocard, Togo's Eyadema Speak

AB1812081689 Lome Domestic Service in French
1900 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Excerpts] For the fourth time in Lome, the African, Caribbean, Pacific countries [ACP] and those of the EEC have renewed their partnership. This morning, they signed the fourth convention, which links them economically. Since 1975, it has been called the Lome Convention, which is actually a series of conventions. The signing this morning was attended by the founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People [RPT] and president of the Republic, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, and French Prime Minister Michel Rocard. It should be recalled the France is assuming the chairmanship of the EEC. [passage omitted]

We have renewed an agreement that was first signed 15 years ago, but remains a model in North-South relations. This is what the French prime minister and chairman of the EEC Council of Ministers said. According to him, the unique aspect of Lome IV is that it takes into account all of development and common institutions—the Committee of Ambassadors, the Council of Ministers, and so on. Mr Rocard believes that Lome IV is different from the other conventions. He said the ACP countries have been affected by the crisis and the debt burden, adding that the drop in the price of raw materials is a liability to developing countries. The objective of Lome IV is to correct these imbalances. On behalf of the EEC, Mr Rocard reaffirmed Europe's commitment to ACP countries despite the changes in Eastern Europe.

[Begin Rocard recording] Every 5 years this has been a festival of renewal, but things are different today. We are again renewing an agreement which was first signed 15 years ago and which has remained a model. This agreement was a novelty at its inception, even though it was based on the Yaounde Conventions. It has been perfected at every renewal, and it remains a unique model in North-South relations. No other cooperation tool in the world has established such sophisticated, concrete, and positive relations. The Lome Convention remains unique because it covers all types of development assistance: preferential access to EEC markets, development financing through the European Development Fund, export revenue stabilization, and systems which pave the way for development. The originality of the convention is also evident in the common institutions: the Joint Ministerial Council, the Roundtable meeting, and the Committee of Ambassadors, which all help the system operate on an equal footing.

The regional aspect of the agreement between the EEC and the ACP countries is a good guarantee against interference or domination. But, it can also be said that the 5-year financial commitment which allows for the necessary planning of sustained development efforts is one of the most positive characteristics of this agreement. Finally, the system of export revenue stabilization

is an original attempt to solve the issue of basic commodities which is at the core of North-South relations, following the failure or semi-failure of many attempts to stabilize commodity prices. Today, we renew for the fourth time this exemplary agreement, which was signed between two distinct regional entities. This agreement has proved valuable and the last negotiations have provided many improvements. Yet, things are different today and this agreement is different from previous ones. The world is changing and has been changing for ACP countries. It will also change for the EEC. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Then came the much-awaited address by the founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese people [RPT], and president of the Republic, Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema. The address was hailed by militant activists. [passage omitted]

[Begin Eyadema recording] [Passage omitted] Certain industrialized nations, to which I here pay tribute, have decided to cancel part of the debt while at the same time envisaging reduction plans. But, beyond these good intentions, the real solution to the foreign debt of developing countries demands just and fair payment for our raw materials. That is why during the negotiations for the renewal of Lome IV, the problem of raw materials continued to be the major concern of our countries.

In this regard, it is necessary to consider the interest we have in the proper functioning of the STABEX [Export Stabilization Fund] and SYSMIN [expansion unknown]. For Lome III, we struggled for greater efficiency of the instruments of the convention. Particular emphasis was put on an extension of the list of products and the lowering of the conditions of eligibility, as well as better utilization of resources. In Lome IV, our countries asked that the necessary resources be made available under the STABEX and SYSMIN, to guarantee stabilized revenues for primary products and to respond to the ever-increasing needs incurred by the fall in revenues.

With our European partners, we tried to envision other mechanisms that would make it possible to export our products to Europe without excessive loss. Furthermore, the concern of our countries is to be able to strengthen their capacity to transform and add value to raw materials at the production site. Last, we wanted to introduce into the new convention new parameters that would make it possible to find specific solutions to the debt and structural adjustment, whose social cost remains unbearable for our countries. The realization of these measures absolutely requires an increase in the volume of loans in the financial package of Lome IV.

From 3,562,000,000 ECU's [European Currency Unit] at the first Lome Convention in 1975, this fund went up to 5,409,000,000 ECU's in 1979 at the Lome II Convention, and to 8.5 billion ECU's in 1984 at the Lome III Convention. We are delighted by the efforts and sacrifices made by everyone to bring to 12 billion ECU's the STABEX amount in the Lome IV Convention, thus

showing our common desire to continue with this cooperation while looking for means to improve upon it from one convention to the other.

To this end, a mechanism is needed that will be flexible enough in the field of technical cooperation to enable ACP countries to ensure that their local talents are given more active participation in program financed by European Development Fund.

Ladies and gentlemen, the strengthening of the Lome Convention we have been envisaging is dictated by a historical event in the making, which causes agony and worry and which will evidently have great repercussions on international relations, especially on the relations between Africa and Europe. In fact, the 1992 dateline, which will be marked by the strengthening of the European Common market, will have a considerable impact on ACP countries linked closely to European nations. Analysts have been wondering whether Europe, after becoming a single economic and monetary entity, will resort to protectionist practices prejudicial to nations of the South, while at the same time opening up more to Eastern European countries, which constitute a more attractive potential market. This fear is justified by the call which some European leaders continue to make for closer cooperation with Eastern Europe. Other European leaders try to allay our fears by stating that the overtures to Eastern countries will not affect aid to Third World countries. On the contrary, the intensification of cooperation between the East and West can only favor rapprochement among ACP countries. When West and East Europeans become closely tied by a united common market, there is no denying that ACP states, which fall prey to the struggle between so-called progressive and moderate political currents, will be forced to abandon their differences and strength their economic integration [applause]. Our only wish is that aid to Eastern countries not be granted to the detriment of ACP countries. That is why I would like to use this solemn occasion to make an urgent call on our European partners so that they do not abandon their friends of the South to take care of their brothers of the East [applause], whose overture toward the community's market will fundamentally change the transaction between peoples of the North and South.

In the face of all these concerns, we hope that a frank and sincere dialogue will be established between Europe and our states so as to evaluate the economic and monetary union on ACP countries. To this end, we propose the holding next year of a large conference which will bring together exports from the EEC and ACP to make concrete proposals for the adoption of safeguards and compensations concerning preferential tariffs, and special treatment reserved for ACP products, trade in capital and services, technology transfer, and the assignment of ACP nationals to the community.

We remain convinced that there will not be any genuine North-South dialogue until ACP countries, themselves, organize and form a united market vis-a-vis the EEC. In

this regard, we are delighted with the creation of regional economic organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States, Economic Community of Central African States, the Preferential Trade Area the South African Development Coordination Conference, Caribbean Community, South Pacific Economic Community, the grouping of which will constitute a vast ACP market. [passage omitted]

Ladies and gentlemen, a new era is dawning. It is full of promise but also full of uncertainties and apprehensions. The stakes looming on the horizon are high. They call on us to temper our selfishness, intensify our bonds of solidarity so that the ACP-EEC association, which will tomorrow become the first economic power, gives an example of cooperation that will lead down the path of development to a world of peace, justice, and genuine brotherhood. I would like to take this occasions at the end of the year to express our sincere wish of good health, well-being, and peace.

Once again, on behalf of the Togolese people, I extend to you all a warm welcome to Togo, and wish you a stay which will be both useful and pleasant, and I wish you every success in your deliberations.

Long live the Lome Convention! Long Live international cooperation! [end recording]

Rocard Speaks at Airport, Departs

*AB1712155789 Lome Domestic Service in French
0615 GMT 17 Dec 89*

[Text] The Fourth ACP-EEC Lome Convention has now become a part of the history of over 700 million people of Africa, the Caribbean, the Pacific, and Europe. It is the most ambitious and most exemplary cooperation agreement in the world. Last Friday [15 December] President Gnassingbe Eyadema described the agreement as an important act of faith which demonstrates the deep commitment of the parties concerned to the ideals of brotherhood, solidarity, and peace. The delegates who participated in the signing of the convention are leaving our country. Yesterday, the French prime minister, Mr Michel Rocard, left after being seen off by President Eyadema and the members of the Political Bureau and the Central Committee, the members of the mass organizations of the Rally of the Togolese People's Rally [RPT], members of the city committee, members of the National Assembly, traditional chiefs, and the official national institutions. All this took place against a background of living performances by the group of activists of the Gulf Prefecture and the Vanguard Activists Group.

At 0840 GMT yesterday, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, the RPT founding chairman and president of the Republic, and our eminent guest, Mr Michel Rocard, prime minister of the French Republic arrived at the Lome-Tokoin International Airport. But before proceeding to the tarmac for the departure formalities, Mr Michel Rocard spoke to the press.

[Begin Rocard recording] I will begin by saying that I have been able to verify on the spot during this first trip to Togo that Togo lives up to its reputation of being a very hospitable country. And I wish to take this opportunity to thank President Eyadema for the warm welcome that he personally accorded me, thereby underlining the old age and intensity of the ties that exist between our two countries, Togo and France and between us as men, considering that we have met on two previous occasions in Paris.

And I want to emphasize also the great importance that I attach to the signing of this Lome IV Convention which is now a unique instrument in the relations between the countries of the North and of the South. This unique instrument goes much further than any thing else that has been done in institutions worldwide, in creating relations between a number of countries of the EEC and the countries of the the African, Carribean, and Pacific regions. Its provides specific instruments for preferential concessional loans, an important package of development aid, and stabilization measures for the prices of primary export products as well as guarantees—indeed

relative guarantees, which are guarantees all the same—for the receipt of foreign exchange, and guarantees against excesses in the prices of imports. All of this culminates in a complicated mechanism which is difficult to explain, but I think, constitutes factor for accelerating development.

It is an exemplary relationship, and I am happy to have had the honor of signing this commitment for both France and the European Community at the same time, given that France holds the chairmanship for some months more. [end recording]

At the end of this statement, and after the playing La Marseillaise, national anthem of France and that of Togo, United Nationale, inspecting a guard of honor, and the usual farewell greetings, Mr Michel Rocard boarded his aircraft which took off from Lome-Tokoin International Airport at 0905 GMT. We may note that before accompanying the prime minister to the Lome-Tokoin Airport, the RPT founding chairman and president of the Republic, Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema, had held discussions with him at L'Hotel 2 Fevrier.

Mozambique's Chissano 'Ready' for Talks*AB1812201989 Paris AFP in French 1901 GMT
18 Dec 89*

[Text] Paris, 18 Dec (AFP)—Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano stated today in Praia that his country is "ready to hold discussions with the Mozambique National Resistance" [MNR], the armed opposition to the Maputo regime). Speaking in the Cape Verdian capital at the opening of the ninth summit of the five Lusophone African countries (Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe) the Mozambican president said he was optimistic in view of the mediation being undertaken by the leaders of Kenya and Zimbabwe between his government and this "rebel" movement, which was for a long time supported by South Africa.

It has been indicated by reliable sources in Praia that President Chissano sent a message of gratitude yesterday evening to Presidents Daniel arap Moi and Robert Mugabe. Joaquim Chissano also announced today that "general" presidential elections would take place in Mozambique in 1991.

Frontline States Applaud UN Declaration*MB1612090389 Windhoek Domestic Service
in Afrikaans 0600 GMT 16 Dec 89*

[Text] The Frontline States have welcomed the United Nations' adoption of a declaration to end apartheid in South Africa.

The chairman of the Frontline States, President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, said the (word indistinct) for his South African counterpart, Mr F.W. de Klerk, as encouragement for his efforts to bring about reform.

The Frontline States, of which Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe are members, are leading Africa's efforts to force South Africa to abolish its policy of apartheid.

President Kaunda has repeatedly said he feared that South Africa would experience a full-scale civil war if reform does not take place.

Kolingba Closes 25th UDEAC Summit in Bangui*AB1412220789 Libreville Africa No 1 in French
1830 GMT 13 Dec 89*

[Text] The 25th heads of state summit of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa, UDEAC, has ended in Bangui. Our correspondent, Flavienne Issembe, has the details from the summit venue:

[Issembe] Yesterday, the head of state of the Central African Republic, CAR, took stock of the union's 25 years of existence. Much has been achieved, but there is still much to be done. Today, in his speech based on the resolutions of the summit, President Kolingba stressed the objective of forging ahead and called for building a strong union. The head of state spoke of the new impetus that the leaders of the six member countries—Chad, CAR, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Congo, and Cameroon—intend to give the union. Now, let us listen to President Kolingba:

[Begin Kolingba recording] Our faith in the union is stronger than ever before. The willingness to make it more efficient does exist despite the difficulties in our path. Aware of the tasks that face us, our determination to meet the challenges ahead has grown as a result of our broad discussions. We will do our best to remove any obstacles to the attainment of the objectives we set in establishing UDEAC. [end recording]

Among these often repeated goals are the promotion of subregional cooperation, economic and customs integration, solidarity among the union's member states, which should first and foremost, rely on their own resources without discarding aid from the international community. The CAR head of state, therefore, made the following appeal to the UDEAC General Secretariat.

[Begin Kolingba recording] The General Secretariat should continue the talks with the World Bank with a view to implementing the subregional adjustment program currently being negotiated. Nevertheless, everything depends on our ability to harvest our human, land, and mineral resources. When this condition is met, all our peoples will surely experience true socioeconomic development.

This clearly calls for total mobilization of UDEAC to overcome underdevelopment and cope with the united Europe of 1992. Thus, the 25th UDEAC summit decided to convene a special meeting before the end of 1990 to examine a document entitled: New Integration.

3 UDEAC Presidents Depart*AB1412221689 Bangui Domestic Service in French
1800 GMT 14 Dec 89*

[Text] Some of our distinguished guests who attended the 25th summit of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa left Bangui late this morning. They are Presidents Omar Bongo of Gabon, Denis Sassou-Nguesso of Congo, and Teodoro Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea, as well as Abanda Tsanga, Cameroonian minister of commercial and industrial development and personal representative of President Paul Biya at the summit.

FOSIDEC Ends Meeting; 1990 Budget Adopted

*AB1612140989 Ouagadougou Domestic Service
in French 2200 GMT 14 Dec 89*

[Text] West African Economic Community's Solidarity and Intervention Fund for the Development of the Community [FOSIDEC] this evening ended its 19th session in Ouagadougou at the community headquarters. On the agenda were such topics as the examination of the 1990 budget, the debt situation of community members the program of FOSIDEC's intervention fields for 1990 were discussed. The participants adopted the 1990 budget, which amounts to 417,984,101 CFA [African Financial Community] francs, showing a reduction of 0.13 percent, compared with last year's budget. As for intervention projects, the administrators approved the financing of feasibility studies for Burkina Faso and the community in general. For Burkina Faso, agricultural and animal husbandry projects will be implemented, as well as grain processing plants in Mangodara. The meeting also focused on the financial situation of the FOSIDEC.

Zambia, Zimbabwe Work on Zambezi River Project

*MB1612061789 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 16 Dec 89*

[Text] Zambia and Zimbabwe are working on [word indistinct] at Katoka, a [word indistinct] on Zambezi River for the establishment of a power station.

The minister of power, transport, and communications, Brigadier General Enos Haimbe, said in [name indistinct] today that [word indistinct] work at Katoka gate was progressing on a power supply project between Zambia and Zimbabwe.

He said that [word indistinct] work was being undertaken by Zimbabwean [word indistinct], adding that Zimbabwe [words indistinct] for the acquisition of equipment for the project. He said the Zambezi River Authority had workers both in Zimbabwe and in Zambia [words indistinct] in Lusaka.

Congo

*** UTA Reduces Service; Security Insufficient**

90EF0104A Victoria SEYCHELLES NATION in French
13 Oct 89 p 9

[Unattributed report: "UTA Judges Security in African Airports Insufficient"]

[Text] Rene Lapautre, chairman and managing director of UTA, the French airline company, is considering no longer serving the Congo if the security of the Brazzaville airport is not better maintained.

According to the UTA chairman, the security of passengers and airplanes is not satisfactorily maintained in African airports. Enclosed spaces are open to whoever wants to enter, entries are not guarded, surveillance equipment for baggage is nonexistent or badly used, security forces are negligent, and airport installations mix traffic of different origins.

In an interview published Wednesday in the DEPECHE DE TAHITI, Mr Lapautre recalled that the UTA had already reduced its connections between Paris-Brazzaville from four to one after the attack committed last September against one of its DC-10s.

Mr Lapautre declared, "If it appeared that the Congolese authorities were not urgently taking the needed steps to ensure the security of its airport, the UTA, which is participating in an action with the public prosecutor and is carefully following the investigation concerning this attack, could be led to break off its aeronautical relations with the Congo."

The UTA's DC-10 exploded in midair on 19 September above Nigerian territory after taking off from the airport of N'Djamena (Chad) while en route to Paris from Brazzaville. The one hundred seventy-one persons on board were all killed.

Zaire

Mozambique's Chissano Urges Mobutu Mediation

EA1812204389 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service
in Swahili 0400 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Kinshasa—President Joachim Chissano of Mozambique has asked President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire to become involved in efforts to end Mozambique's conflict with the Mozambique National Resistance [MNR] bandits. President Chissano made the appeal when he met President Mobutu in the Zairean capital, Kinshasa, during a stopover while on his way to the summit of Africa's Portuguese-speaking leaders in Cape Verde.

The Mozambican leader made no statement after his talks with President Mobutu, but reports say that President Chissano asked President Mobutu to act as a mediator between the Mozambican Government and the MNR bandits. President Mobutu has been the main mediator in the Angolan conflict.

Mobutu Ready To Mediate

AB1812200389 Paris AFP in French 1637 GMT
18 Dec 89

[Text] Kinshasa, 18 Dec (AFP)—Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, the Zairian head of state, has reaffirmed his willingness to strive to put an end to the fighting in Mozambique. He made the statement following an hour of private talks with Mozambican President Joachim Chissano, it was learned from reliable sources in the Zairian capital. Mr Chissano made a brief stopover in Zaire on Sunday [17 December] on his way to Praia (Cape Verde) to attend the summit of Lusophone African countries.

Following the signing of the Gbadolite agreements (northwest Zaire) last June on the peace process in Angola and President Mobutu's mediatory role between Luanda and the rebels of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, the Mozambican head of state has asked the Zairian president to play an active role in the reestablishment of peace in his country. At the time, President Mobutu declared that he was willing to mediate between Maputo and the rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance [MNR].

Ethiopia

Eritrean Rebels Continue To Make Battle Claims

EA1812115789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Combatants of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF] people's army have attacked a unit of the Ethiopian Army which attempted to infiltrate our liberated areas in southern Eritrea. The EPLF combatants ambushed the enemy unit at (Kertse Kemte), when it attempted to advance southwards from Dek'emhare towards our liberated areas. During the battle, which took place on 12th December, three enemy troops were killed and three guns seized. The remaining Ethiopian troops retreated to their base in disarray.

The previous day, combatants of our zonal people's army attacked patrolling units of the enemy army stationed at (Newih Ziban) near Mendefera. Four enemy troops were killed, one wounded and two guns seized. [passage omitted]

Kenya

Ethiopian Government Official Arrives 16 Dec

EA1812114989 Nairobi KNA in English 1435 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Nairobi, 16th December—A senior Ethiopian Government official arrived in Nairobi today with a special message to President Daniel arap Moi from President Mengistu Haile Mariam. The official, Dr. Felleke Gedle-Giorgis, is a member of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Ethiopia and minister in the president's office responsible for foreign affairs. He was received at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport by an assistant minister for foreign affairs and international

co-operation, Mr Chris Obure, and the Ethiopian ambassador in Kenya, Mr Legesse Wolde Mariam.

Somalia

SNM Rebels Report Ceel Madow Battle Victory

EA1812200789 (Clandestine) Radio of the Somali National Movement in Somali 1500 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] At the end of last week troops loyal to the Mohamed Siad Barre regime attacked the Somali Patriotic Movement [SPM] base at Ceel Madow. Ceel Madow is one of the SPM bases in Bakool region, central Somalia. The base is near the regional capital, Xuddur.

The attacking soldiers of the dictatorial regime suffered great setbacks in men and material. Twenty-one soldiers loyal to Mohamad Siad Barre were killed and many others wounded. A very large quantity of weapons were seized and an armored personnel carrier was also seized. The report adds that 26 officers and men of the Somali Army, who took part in the attack, defected to the SPM and are now engaged in the armed liberation struggle against the Mogadishu regime. The gallant SPM fighters at Ceel Madow base suffered no casualties.

Air Raids in South Reported

EA1812072189 (Clandestine) Radio of the Somali National Movement in Somali 1500 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Reports from our correspondent in the southern regions of the country say that in the past 2 weeks the loyalist forces of the Mohamed Siad Barre regime have attacked continuously with aircraft the towns and villages in Ju'obada hoose, especially Dhoobey and Afmadow. The attacking aircraft completely annihilated families and their livestock. The reporter adds that many buildings have also been burned.

UK's Thatcher Said To Request Mandela Release*MB1912061789 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0604 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] Pretoria Dec 19 SAPA—British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has formally requested State President F.W. de Klerk to release ANC [African National Congress] leader Nelson Mandela before Christmas, reports SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] radio news.

Mrs Thatcher's official spokesman at 10 Downing Street on Monday [18 December] confirmed the request had been made through diplomatic channels.

Last week Mrs Thatcher told Parliament in London the request was in line with her policy to use her influence in an attempt to have Mr Mandela released.

A foreign affairs spokesman in Pretoria said so far no official message in this regard had been received.

He said the Department was aware of Mrs Thatcher's remarks to the British Parliament.

No Official Communication Received*MB1912074189 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0735 GMT 19 Dec 89*

[Text] Pretoria Dec 19 SAPA—No official communication had been received by the South African Government from the British Government by Tuesday [19 December] morning regarding a reported plea from British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher to State President F.W. de Klerk that Mr Nelson Mandela be released before Christmas.

It was reported from London a formal approach was being made through "diplomatic channels".

A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pretoria said this morning no such communication had yet been received.

A spokesman for the state president's office said if such a plea were to be received, President de Klerk would not (?communicate) [words indistinct] but directly with Mrs Thatcher.

Only once he was satisfied that she had received his reply, would he decide whether to release any statement to the media.

A British Embassy spokesman in Pretoria had no comment.

Denard, 3 Comoros Mercenaries Still in Country*MB1812182689 Johannesburg International Service
in English 1500 GMT 18 Dec 89*

[Text] A spokesman for the South African Department of Foreign Affairs says Bob Denard and three other mercenaries are still in South Africa.

The spokesman told Radio RSA's [Republic of South Africa] political staff in Pretoria that it was still unknown when the men would leave or what their destination would be.

Denard and 21 other mercenaries arrived in South Africa from the Comoro Islands on Sunday [17 December] following the assassination 3 weeks ago of President Ahmed Abdallah. Eighteen mercenaries have already arrived at various destinations in Europe after departing from South Africa at the weekend.

Commentary Views De Klerk Visit to Mozambique*MB1812183789 Johannesburg International Service
in English 1550 GMT 18 Dec 89*

[Station commentary]

[Text] The visit by South African President F.W. de Klerk to Maputo last week is seen as yet another successful step in his ongoing efforts to build bridges into sub-Saharan Africa.

Much came out of the 5 hours of talks between President de Klerk and President Joaquim Chissano. Mr de Klerk again gave his categorical assurance that the South African Government no longer supported the Mozambican Resistance Movement, Renamo, in any way. He conceded, however, that private assistance from South Africa must be reaching the rebels. His government, he said, would do everything possible to stop private assistance.

The two leaders committed themselves to the revitalization of the 80-km corridor between the South African border town of Komatipoort and Maputo, and also to rehabilitating the Cahora Bassa power line between the two countries.

It has been decided that South African security forces will request that Mozambican security forces (?being) trained with logistical planning and with [word indistinct], but there is no question of South African troops manning the Komatipoort-Maputo corridor.

Practical details of security groups will be finalized by the joint security commission established between the two countries following the signing of the historic Komati Accord in 1984. Until that time, South Africa openly supported Renamo, and Mozambique allowed its territory to be used for African National Congress terrorist attacks against South Africa.

Although there have been setbacks over the past 5 years, the peace treaty has been valid and successful. As a result, relations between Pretoria and Maputo have improved considerably and there has been a great deal of cooperation between the two countries in various spheres.

At a news conference after talks, President de Klerk said the two countries would concentrate on improving bilateral cooperation still further. The talks he said, had been conducted on the basis of noninterference in each other's

domestic affairs. This normalizing of relations between South Africa and Mozambique has been of immense benefit to both countries.

It serves as a telling example of what good relations and cooperation between states in southern Africa can achieve, even in cases of deep political and ideological differences.

ANC Calls for Student Groups To Unite

*MB1912114789 Johannesburg NEW NATION in English
15-19 Dec 89 p 2*

[Text] ANC [African National Congress] leader Andrew Mlangeni has called on the National Union of SA [South African] Students (NUSAS) and the SA National Students Congress (SANSCO) to unite.

The recently released leader was speaking at the annual NUSAS congress which was held at Rhodes University this week.

"It is disgusting that students are still divided along racial lines," Mlangeni said.

He said he and countless others had gone to jail trying to destroy apartheid, while students, who were the future leaders of South Africa, were reviving it.

Mlangeni said NUSAS' first priority should be to unite with SANSCO and other organisations like the Black Students Society (BSS) at Wits [Witwatersrand University].

"Student problems are similar although there are differences here and there. Students must now attempt to form one body", he said.

He also challenged NUSAS to ensure that Potchestroom and the Orange Free State Universities have delegates at next year's congress saying that, if they were unsuccessful, they would have failed the people of South Africa.

The ANC leader, however, congratulated NUSAS after the student organisation adopted the Freedom Charter at the morning session. "NUSAS, by adopting the Freedom Charter, is taking a progressive step," he said.

Speaking on negotiations, Mlangeni, said the ANC was prepared to negotiate, and called on the people of South Africa not to reject negotiations.

He also called for the release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners and said they had an important contribution in the country.

At the end of Mlangeni's speech NUSAS president, Lindsay Falkov, said it was a historical occasion for NUSAS to have a leading ANC figure addressing the congress.

19 Dec Press Review on Current Problems, Issues

MB1912113389

[Editorial Report]

THE CITIZEN

South Africans 'Bluff' Themselves All Is Well—"There is a belief that there is an atmosphere of calm and peace in South Africa," says the page 6 editorial in Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 13 December. But "it would be foolish to bluff ourselves that all is well," warns the paper. "Political violence is bad enough, but when strike violence, with political undertones, causes death and destruction, we have to ask ourselves whether this kind of labour unrest can be tolerated." The African National Congress (ANC) must "abandon the armed struggle and commit itself to peaceful development. Unionists must fight their battles without resorting to violence. And Whites and people of colour must avoid needless and dangerous confrontation."

De Klerk To Create 'Total Reversal' of NP Policy—Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 14 December claims in its page 6 editorial F.W. de Klerk's reform "strategy" is "to do as much as possible in one giant burst. By the time the public has assimilated the present dramatic changes, more will be on the way," and hopefully the public will "become accustomed to living in a changed South Africa." However, THE CITIZEN warns that "for every action he takes brings a Right-wing reaction—and the anger and frustration of the Right is building up dangerously." South Africans had "better become used to Mr de Klerk's bold style, because it's what the government is going to be all about—drama, undreamed of action, and a total reversal of former National Party [NP] policy."

Afrikanerdom 'Never More Divided'—Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 15 December in its page 6 editorial says it finds "Afrikanerdom never more divided, never more uncertain, never more conscious of the dangers facing it." Also, the black man "grows more militant on a wave of Black nationalism that matches the nationalism that brought the Afrikaner to the dominant position he now holds." Therefore, THE CITIZEN hopes the "anger of the Right will be tempered by the knowledge that violence cannot achieve anything. There is no way that the growing tide of Black nationalism can be stemmed." Ultimately "the issue is not whether Blacks should be given political rights. They will be. What has to be decided is how they will share power and what kind of South Africa will emerge from the negotiations that will inevitably take place."

Criticism of UN Guidelines for RSA—The page 6 editorial in Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 18 December comments on the UN General Assembly Declaration on Apartheid and its "principles and guidelines whereby South Africa is expected to resolve its problems." THE CITIZEN asks: "What right has the Assembly to call for peaceful negotiations leading to a democratic, non-fragmented South Africa on the basis of universal, equal suffrage under a non-racial voters' role? Many of the member-states of the United Nations do not apply these principles in their own countries, which are one-party states, or dictatorships, or have other forms of

undemocratic rule." It is also "uncalled for interference" in South Africa's domestic affairs at a time when South Africa is "dismantling apartheid and moving towards negotiations."

THE STAR

RSA Money Cannot Buy Real Allies—"The political upheaval in the Comoros raises again the question of how [the Republic of] South Africa [RSA] should counter the isolation the world wishes to impose on it while apartheid lasts," remarks Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 19 December in a page 20 editorial. "Propping up certain leaders—or covertly trying to bring others down—has brought South Africa as many problems and almost as much opprobrium as apartheid itself." In the end South Africa's chances of "making a breakthrough to the world remain tied to Africa's political attitude. Money may buy under-the-counter trade, but it does not often buy real allies." The "way back" for South Africa is "to change the political structure of the nation so that all its people have equal opportunities. Though other countries of Africa may not practise democracy themselves, that is the standard demanded of South Africa. In the long run, Banana Republic manipulations simply will not work here."

BUSINESS DAY

Formula To Encourage Capital Investment—Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 19 December in a page 6 editorial comments on the "decision to change the rules for the depreciation allowances for capital expenditure write-offs," saying it "intended to encourage capital investment by permitting payment of tax to take place in a manner more favourable to the investor than an absence of any formula would be. There may be important social reasons why the government should intervene in favour of investors in this manner, but the government does not owe the investors favourable treatment or special consideration. The only argument which carries any weight is the general good of the wider society—not the general good of the individual taxpayer—and that argument should be convincingly made."

SOWETAN

No Genuine Search for Peace in Natal—Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 19 December in its page 6 editorial says attempts at peace in Durban have failed "possibly because the leaders of the warring factions have lost control over their followers or because there is no genuine search for peace. There is a possibility that some people talk peace to get tactical advantage, and when they are ready continue the bloodbath." "If there are any people in Natal today who believe that they can annihilate the opposition in the war, who believe in simplistic winner-takes-all conclusions, they have obviously gone mad."

CAPE TIMES

Judicial Inquiry Into Death Squad Claims Needed—"Quite correctly" there has been criticism of President de Klerk's failure to appoint a judicial commission of inquiry to investigate claims that death squads have been operating in South Africa and across its borders says Cape Town CAPE TIMES in English on 11 December in a page 6 editorial. "A judicial commission is essential to clear the air. President de Klerk may yet come to this conclusion himself as the public insistence on a wide-ranging independent investigation intensifies. He would do well to think again."

RSA Cannot Brush Aside Extraparliamentary Opposition—Referring to the meeting of the Conference for a Democratic Future in Johannesburg, Cape Town CAPE TIMES in English on 12 December in a page 6 editorial says this "impressive gathering would have been more convincing if it could have been mounted without massive financial aid from the Scandinavian churches. Nevertheless, the ANC-MDM-COSATU [African National Congress-Mass Democratic Movement-Congress of South African Trade Unions] alliance represents a formidable home-grown extra-parliamentary opposition which cannot be brushed aside, even if the PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress] and the Inkatha movement remain resolutely outside its ranks."

RSA Closer to Talks About Talks—The meeting between President F.W. de Klerk and Nelson Mandela "takes South Africa another step towards the unbanning of the ANC and the release of Mr Mandela himself," declares a page 8 editorial in Cape Town CAPE TIMES in English on 14 December. "The country is edging closer to serious talks about talks, to decide the structures and procedures to be followed when substantive negotiations get under way."

CITY PRESS

Editorial 'Angry' Trialists in Prison Five Years—"We are pleased at the release of five Delmas Treason trialists but angry at the thought that these political activists had to wait five years before being freed," observes a page 10 editorial in Johannesburg CITY PRESS in English on 17 December. Some of the apartheid laws that made the trialists go to prison are still on the statute books but CITY PRESS hopes "one day there will be no need for people to go to jail for saying apartheid is evil."

TRANSVALER

No Recognition of De Klerk Reform Efforts—Johannesburg TRANSVALER in Afrikaans on 12 December in a page 6 editorial refers to the Conference for a Democratic Future that was held in Johannesburg, saying "no-one expected this conference to applaud the government without criticism. But was it asking too much that there should have been a little recognition for what President de Klerk is trying to achieve?" As far as the conference was concerned De Klerk is "merely buying time." The conference called for an increase in pressure, and comprehensive sanctions among other

things. TRANSVALER says this is "the path of confrontation—an attitude that can only harden attitudes and cause conflict to escalate."

Namibian Requirements for Investor Confidence—Johannesburg TRANSVALER in Afrikaans on 13 December states in a page 6 editorial: "The fact that Namibia has disappeared from the headlines tells a story. Contrary to what many expected, business continues peacefully there. It is vital for the future of the country that it remains so, because that is the requirement for investor confidence." "The recent statement by SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] President Sam Nujoma, that foreign investors are welcome in Namibia, should further increase confidence—especially for white Namibians who are the one group that on the basis of earlier statements from the same source has reason to be concerned. The threat of possible nationalization of their property by a Marxist government was ever present."

Mandela Release 'Gradually'—Johannesburg TRANSVALER in Afrikaans on 14 December in a page 6 editorial welcomes F.W. de Klerk's meeting with Nelson Mandela, saying it "confirms De Klerk's intention to search for real solutions." It is also "in keeping with our view that Mr Mandela should be introduced into South African public life gradually and not suddenly. That is how the myth is destroyed and Mandela the man is introduced."

DIE BURGER

Right-Wing Opposition Loses Perspective—"In their blind opposition to every step the government takes the far right wing manages to lose its perspective," remarks Cape Town DIE BURGER in Afrikaans on 11 December in a page 10 editorial. "An example is the reaction of Mr Koos van der Merwe, Conservative Party (CP) defense spokesman, on the reduction in the period of national service. While these steps were welcomed in every other quarter, the CP man had all sorts of objections." "The image of a party that will rather solve problems through the barrel of a gun, is further encouraged by remarks that there will be war if certain things happen, if certain things do not happen, and that whites will 'not tolerate' certain things. In its attempts toward a greater normalization South Africa cannot afford such an attitude."

ANC Clings to 'Obsolete' Ideology—Commenting on the Conference for a Democratic Future held in Johannesburg Cape Town DIE BURGER in Afrikaans on 12 December says in a page 12 editorial that "instead of making constructive contributions on how to build a new, progressive South Africa together, the conference was dominated by familiar revolutionary rhetoric of the past." "What is astounding is that the ANC and its most important allies such as the UDF and COSATU clearly do not understand they are clinging to an obsolete ideology. While Communism and socialism are crumbling in East Europe by the day, and there is no proof

anywhere in Africa of its success, it is still held up by certain black organizations as the great solution for South Africa's issues."

Democratic Policy Remarks Contradictory—Judging from his remarks Democratic Party (DP) leader Zach de Beer is "someone who wants his bread buttered on both sides," remarks Cape Town DIE BURGER in Afrikaans on 13 December in a page 22 editorial. He "raises all sorts of doubts about President F.W. de Klerk's reform policy" and in the next breath says "many people ask him whether he is not concerned the National Party (NP) will simply take over the DP policy leaving no role for the DP to play." "If it is true that President de Klerk is taking over DP policy, as De Beer says, then his doubts about President de Klerk's reform policy are not valid. Dr de Beer is actually complaining about his own policy then!"

BEELD

Mass Movement Hidden Violence Agenda—Referring to the two bomb explosions in Johannesburg earlier in the week Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans on 14 December says in a page 12 editorial according to reports the explosions were the work of "terrorists who were body guards of recently released ANC leaders and belonged to the Young Lions of the Mass Democratic Movement. This prompts questions about the role of the Mass Democratic Movement and the respective leaders. Is there a hidden agenda of violence? If that is the case do senior leaders such as Walter Sisulu and Ahmed Kathrada know about it, and what are they doing about it? It is not good enough to talk about peace while an arsenal of murder weapons lies at the ready."

Treurnicht Remarks Ambiguous—"South Africans are beginning to get bored with Dr A.P. Treurnicht's juggling of words," declares a page 10 editorial in Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans on 18 December. "He frequently talks about the AWB [Afrikaner Resistance Movement], but one still does not know whether he supports the movement or its sometimes sinister actions." "His reaction to Nelson Mandela's meeting with President F.W. de Klerk last week was true to this semantic double speak. He and the CP [Conservative Party] regard the talks as a de facto lifting of the ban on the ANC. He says that is a disregard of the whites' right to survival. As usual, it is not quite clear what he means by that."

NEW NATION

State To 'Divert Attention' From Death Squads—"Our people are crying out for justice over the death squads while the government fiddles and tries to divert attention from the issue," claims Johannesburg NEW NATION in English for 15-19 December in its page 6 editorial. "We must not allow this to happen." NEW NATION is "not persuaded that these death squads were the work of independent, undisciplined individuals acting of their own accord. We believe that they were acting within the parameters of a political decision. If not, why is it that the increasing number of unsolved murders of opponents of the government did not alarm the politicians?"

VRYE WEEKBLAD

De Klerk 'Not Serious' About Murder Squad Claims—
Johannesburg VRYE WEEKBLAD in Afrikaans on 15
December says in a page 20 editorial the government's
decision not to appoint a judicial commission of inquiry

into "police murders of political opponents" is "very disappointing, and dangerous." This decision "undermines the government's and De Klerk's credibility. If De Klerk is not serious about exposing and preventing crime and state supported murder and terrorism, how can the country trust him to lead us closer to democracy and reconciliation?"

Angola

UNITA Reports Catholic Bishops' Letter

MB1912082089 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance
of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Southern
and Central Africa 0510 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Angolan Catholic Bishops's Pastoral Letter issued in
Luanda on 11 November]

[Text] To the political leaders of the MPLA [Popular
Movement for the Liberation of Angola]-Labor Party
and UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola], all God's people and men of goodwill:

Having once again examined the serious situation our
country is facing, we, the Angolan Catholic Bishops, held
an ordinary assembly. Conscious of our pastoral responsibility
and in solidarity with the suffering people of
whose aspirations we want to be interpreters, we reiterate
the appeal for peace.

The Gbadolite meeting brought the entire country new
hope for a new life in the midst of so much suffering.
There was great joy amongst everyone in all walks of life.
However, following the unsuccessful cease-fire, all of
Angola plunged into deep frustration.

Seko's words could be correctly applied to our case: We
waited for peace, but saw nothing that was good. We
waited for an era of restoration, but there emerged
anguish. Jeremiah, Chapter 14, Verse 19.

Everyone who had their eyes on peace felt great disenchantment
when the war reintensified, turning the
country into a sea of suffering that affects, as usual, the
most vulnerable people—the ordinary people, the most
innocent. An explosive situation was generated, coupled
with a greater disruption of public services. We all had
the impression that the country had stopped waiting for
a solution. As a matter of fact, it is correct; the people are
waiting. They want peace more than anything else. They
demand that their leaders, those who now have the
people's destiny in their hands, put national interests
above all other interests, that they open the doors toward
peace. The people tell them: Give us peace.

We know that most of our leaders want peace, and for
this we give thanks to God. However, there still seem to
be people on both sides who are afraid of and oppose the
search for peace. History will be an implacable judge of
these people.

Having said this, we are aware that peace is a delicate
process that demands the adoption of responsible positions.
We have no interest in just any kind of peace. We
need a real peace that will transform Angola into a truly
free, democratic country, where all its children will have
a place and a voice. This voice can only genuinely be
heard through free elections. There is a need to find ways
for a just peace in a modern and fraternal country.

Accordingly, it is imperative that first and foremost
there should be an urgent cease-fire. The political leaders
cannot accord themselves the right to continue to jeopardize
the Angolan spirit because of party interests. They
are not the owners of Angola. They must be our people's
representatives for finding common good. Angola
demands serious and realistic negotiations. Negotiating
signifies understanding one another, finding one
another, and approaching one another. Achieving this
objective requires the courage to make mutual concessions
for the good of all.

The hour has come for a personal, direct, and frank
dialogue between one Angolan and another Angolan.
Negotiating peace is not only a technical problem. Negotiating
peace is above all a meeting of people. Personal
contact will not only facilitate a technical solution but
also help to overcome resistance and fear. The parties in
dialogue will thus gain mutual trust, creating a climate of
fraternity which is paramount for carrying forward a
common project.

Accordingly, there is a need to avoid every kind of
offensive language, including the (?virulently) abusive
language in social communications media which (?does
no good to anyone).

An important step forward has already been made in
Gbadolite, perhaps without the necessary clarity. However,
it was a gesture that gave great dignity to its
authors. But Angola demands more. It is not the people
outside who have to resolve our problem. We have to do
it ourselves. However, every genuine assistance that can
be rendered to us by our African brothers and others will
be welcome. There is a need for a true meeting of the
Angolan family. There is a need to avoid the frequent
danger of an artificial union that will drag us toward a
solution of a divided Angola, among other things. A
divided Angola will not fulfill its destiny. The Angolans
only want to be one people, a genuine nation that is not
divided into two battlefields. This unity is only possible
if all of us become aware that we are brothers, and if we
treat each other without any kind of prejudice. This will
carry us toward a firm solidarity, which is the secret for
a united fatherland that is open to progress.

The latest events in recent history show us that the
people today are moving toward peace, progress, liberty,
and democracy. A political system of this kind is needed
for the Angolan nation, its people, and leaders. Let us not
choose a different path for Angola.

Christians must continue with their faithful prayers,
particularly through the intercession of the immaculate
heart of Mary, who is the Angolan patroness, so that the
leaders of the MPLA-Labor Party and UNITA will find
ways for a true peace which will signify victory for all
Angolan people.

Mary, mother of Angola, mother of Africa, help us
restore peace!

[Dated] Luanda, 11 November 1989, Independence Day
[Signed] Angolan Catholic Bishops

Government Signs Fourth Lome Convention

MB1812205989 Luanda ANGOP in French 2001 GMT
18 Dec 89

[Text] Lome, 18 Dec (ANGOP)—The JORNAL DE ANGOLA newspaper reported on 17 December that Angola was the first among the African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries to sign the Lome IV Convention with the EEC. This convention will be valid until the year 2000.

The newspaper reports that Ambassador to the EEC Emilio Guerra signed the document for Angola.

Comoros**Intensive Political Debate 'in Full Swing' 18 Dec**

AB1812191389 Paris AFP in French 1233 GMT
18 Dec 89

[By AFP special correspondent, Michel Sailhan]

[Text] Moroni, 18 Dec (AFP)—Political debate was in full swing today in the Comoros archipelago, just 4 days after the departure of Bob Denard and his mercenaries and the arrival of a detachment of the French Armed Forces. A demonstration was to take place today in Anjouan, the second island of the Republic (a total of about 500,000 inhabitants), which also consists of the Grand-Comore, where Moroni, the capital, and Moheli are situated. The demonstrators intend to protest against the fact that Anjouan is underrepresented at the civic forum, where the government and (?six) opposition parties have been meeting since 15 December to examine the country's political future, diplomatic sources report.

President Ahmed Abdallah, whose assassination on 26 November was followed by the "forceful takeover" by Bob Denard, was a native of Anjouan, and the Anjouans now fear a new president originating from the Grand-Comore, the same sources stated. Moreover, this meeting between the government and the opposition, convened by the acting president, Said Mohamed Djohar, has been condemned by the leaders of new or banned political organizations, who are excluded from participating in it. This is particularly the case of the supporters of the former president, Ali Soilih, and the Democratic Front, whose secretary general, Moustafa Said Cheikh (Marxist), was released from prison on 15 December. He had been sentenced to life imprisonment in 1985 after being accused of plotting against President Abdallah.

These organizations have accused the government of not including the "barons of the regime" in the political debate, thus ignoring the movements that represent Comoran youth. Several political parties have sprung up following the murder of President Abdallah, which most often have local support.

The French forces which arrived in Moroni to take over from Bob Denard and about 30 mercenaries who controlled the country have continued with their mission of

"training" the Comoran forces. There have been no incidents, according to a reliable source.

A total of 190 men, most of whom are paratroops, had arrived in Moroni by aircraft and helicopters while others, belonging to the Jaubert rapid intervention commando, came by boat to Domoni, situated in the Anjouan Island, it was stated by an informed source. Out of these forces, only 50 officers and warrant officers of the Military Assistance and Instruction Detachment (DAMI) and 20 paratroops of the first RPIMA (Marine Paratroop regiment) still remain here today, according to the same source.

The French Government has also ordered the withdrawal from Comoran waters of four warships involved in the operation. Moreover, there were 27 French military advisers already in Comoros before the troops' departure on 15 December.

France intervened at the request of acting President Said Djohar. There is a defense agreement between the two countries for the purpose of ensuring Comoros' external security. However, the French intervention was effected in line with current French military aid to Comoros. This distinction implies that French forces can participate in exercises to maintain law and order in the archipelago, and not only to maintain the external defense of the territory, accounting to the same source.

The arrival of French troops on 15 December was followed a few hours later by the departure for South Africa of Bob Denard and 21 French and Belgian mercenaries. A first group had left Moroni on 4 December for Paris. The Comoran crisis had been sparked off on 26 November by the murder of President Abdallah under circumstances which have remained mysterious for more than 3 weeks after the incident.

After the official announcement that those responsible for the murder were uncontrolled elements in the army, there were suspicions about Bob Denard, who denied on several occasions that he murdered the president. It was after this murder that Bob Denard and his men had ordered that the regular Comoran Armed Forces be disarmed, thus giving his Presidential Guard exclusive control over the archipelago.

Flights With Madagascar To Resume 18 Dec

EA1812074789 Moroni Domestic Service in French
1700 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Comoros and Madagascar will resume their flights from tomorrow. They were suspended on (?6) December, following the Bob Denard crisis. People who wish to travel to Madagascar are requested to address themselves to the Air Comoros Company.

Public Urged To Spare Presidential Guard

EA1812080589 Moroni Domestic Service in French
1700 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Members of the Presidential Guards [GP] should not be hunted. You will understand why. This morning we learned that a GP member was mistreated at (Baganani). We understand well the spontaneous reaction of citizens and the bad feeling caused by the murder of the president, and the distress caused by elements of the Presidential Guard among the population. But soldiers are human beings who follow strict military rules. That is why the spirit of pardon which has always been our trademark should remain. Soldiers should not feel [words indistinct]. So, it is up to each one of us to make sure that such incidents do not recur. The interim president was very clear on that problem, during his recent news conference. [passage omitted]

Investigation of Abdallah's Death Planned

EA1812071989 Moroni Domestic Service in French
1700 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] The interim president, will tomorrow meet the members of the judiciary service (?to give) directives for serious investigations into the murder of President Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane to be carried out. The mercenary Bob Denard (?is linked) to the murder, [words indistinct] the investigations will give us a clear view of the murder, which abruptly ended the life of the father of the Comoran nation.

Mauritius

* MMM Proposals on Chagos Island, Peace Zone

90EF0101A Port Louis LE NOUVEAU MILITANT
in French 12 Nov 89 p 4

[Article: "MMM Proposes Four Initiatives on Diego, Indian Ocean: Broad Lines of Possible Treaty Made Public"; passages within slantlines published in English]

[Text] The Mauritian Militant Movement (MMM) is proposing four initiatives aimed at re-establishing Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos archipelago and Diego Garcia, and at promoting Indian Ocean demilitarization. In a press conference yesterday, Dr Prem Nababsingh, leader of the movement, and Mr Paul Berenger, the party's secretary general, accompanied by Cassam Uteem and Dharmanand Fokeer, said that attaining these objectives will require coherent, consistent and serious diplomacy. The MMM leaders, with supporting documents on hand, said the government should go into action without delay. The secretary general noted, in connection with those demands, that it is essential to keep separate the issues of Indian Ocean demilitarization and Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos archipelago.

The MMM leader said the Indian Ocean made front-page news after the recent accident off the coast of Diego Garcia and the 2-day visit (on 9-10 October) of Mr

Herman Cohen, assistant secretary of state for African affairs. "The prime minister's answers in parliament last Tuesday only served to emphasize the danger posed by that accident, when he said that in the past there were two 'near misses' involving civilian and military planes," said Dr Nababsingh, disclosing that according to his information those incidents took place in 1985. The MMM leader said that during his talk with Mr Cohen, on Friday afternoon at his house at Quatre-Bornes, he raised the entire issue and spelled out the MMM's position.

Same Wavelength

"We are happy to see that since the accident the government has embraced our ideas and finds itself more or less on the same wavelength as the MMM. But unfortunately, we have already lost too much time in the 6 years since 1983," Dr Nababsingh said.

Mr Berenger, describing the four initiatives MMM has proposed, said that if the prime minister and the government are serious about Mauritius's claim to the Chagos archipelago, there is only one forum where Mauritius can—and should—take action to pursue it. That is the Committee of 24—the UN committee on decolonization. This committee has oversight responsibility for all territories still under colonial occupation, to see that they either obtain independence or become part of a country that is already independent. The Chagos archipelago thus comes under its jurisdiction. UN procedures require a vote by the General Assembly to inscribe a territory on the committee's agenda. Mr Berenger said members of the Committee of 24 include India, China, Tanzania, and Sweden. "Obviously, whenever a vote is taken on the question of referring a territory to this committee, intense lobbying takes place. But Mauritius has an edge here, because early in 1983 the MMM-PSM [Mauritian Socialist Party] government succeeded in getting the entire Nonaligned Movement to support Mauritius's claim to sovereignty over the Chagos," Mr Berenger recalled.

Mr Berenger showed the press a document dated 4 August 1986, which the MMM had presented to the prime minister, specifically calling on the Mauritian Government to ask India to bring the question before the Committee of 24 to get the process under way. The secretary general showed documents indicating that the Islanders made a similar appeal to the government in July 1988. The MMM secretary general noted that the prime minister, in his responses to supplementary questions at PNQ [expansion unknown] last Tuesday in Parliament, had left the door open to such an initiative. Nevertheless, Berenger said, the prime minister was offbase in saying the whole question would be brought before the Security Council. "The Security Council has no mandate to discuss the question of sovereignty. That is for the Committee of 24," Mr Berenger explained, deploring the fact that so much time has been lost since the Nonaligned Movement endorsed the Mauritian claim.

The Committee of 24

Mr Berenger formally appealed to the government to do whatever is necessary to get the question brought before the Committee of 24 and at the same time to approach Great Britain to open a dialogue for the purpose of recovering our sovereignty over the Chagos. "The United States has nothing to do with our sovereignty over the Chagos archipelago. The litigation is between Mauritius and Great Britain, which illegally detached the archipelago [from Mauritius] in 1965," Mr Berenger maintained. He said MMM finds it unacceptable that the government should talk tough about our sovereignty just because an accident occurs, only to let the issue sink into oblivion once the furor over the accident dies down.

Indian Ocean Peace Zone: Mr Berenger said MMM does not agree with the way the government has handled this issue in recent years. "There must be an end to the zigzagging of Mauritian diplomacy on this issue," Mr Berenger said. The MMM secretary general recalled that for several years starting in 1983 the MSM/PMSD/PT [Mauritius Socialist Movement/Mauritian Social Democratic Party/Labor Party] government had not only defended the Diego Garcia base but actually helped build it, by providing manpower and provisions. "Today the MSM/PT government gives the impression that it is challenging only the American military presence. We say no to such a turnabout, and we say that to attack only the American presence in the region is frivolous and irresponsible," Mr Berenger said.

The MMM secretary general said the Mauritian demand must be seen in light of the UN resolution making the Indian Ocean a peace zone, to be achieved by a military de-escalation on the part of both the Americans and the Soviets. "We must demand that both the Americans and the Soviets withdraw militarily from the Indian Ocean, and that can only be done in a balanced, step-by-step manner. It serves no purpose to ignore the fact that the Americans have genuine security interests in the region, and we will not achieve demilitarization of the Indian Ocean if we do not take all the facts into account. Therefore, what we need is a coherent and consistent Mauritian diplomatic campaign for a conference on the Indian Ocean Peace Zone—something the Americans have blocked so far. This also has to be said," Mr Berenger added.

Mr Berenger said that disarmament, the third initiative, has a number of different dimensions, and three of them are already being discussed in various forums. Super-power disarmament and disarmament in general are the subject of an ongoing permanent UN conference in Geneva; conventional disarmament is being discussed at a permanent conference in Vienna; and chemical disarmament is the subject of another permanent conference in Geneva. The MMM secretary general said the /terms of reference/ of all these conferences expressly exclude the subject of naval disarmament. The MMM demands that Mauritius take the initiative and keep up pressure to make naval disarmament—beginning with the Indian

Ocean—the subject of discussion, either by holding a fourth conference specifically devoted to it or by expanding the /terms of reference/ of the conference on conventional disarmament.

Mr Berenger pointed out in that regard that the Soviet Union is already calling for naval arms reduction. "It is also a fact that the United States is arguing against it. We are demanding it because it is in the interests of Mauritius, not to accommodate anyone else," he added.

Denuclearized Zone

In discussing the fourth initiative, which he said the MMM has been promoting for several years, Mr Berenger gave the press a document titled "/Towards an Indian Ocean Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty/." Mr Berenger said the details of the initiative have been worked out in great detail, and it goes very far toward demilitarizing the Indian Ocean. "We propose that Mauritius launch an initiative aimed at negotiation and ratification of a denuclearized zone treaty," he said.

The MMM secretary general explained that these initiatives are not politically partisan in any way, but rather address the nation's highest interests. He expressed hope the government will consider these proposals, quit turning a deaf ear, and stop its dangerous "zigzagging." "As the parliamentary opposition, the MMM will give its full support to the four initiatives proposed," he concluded.

* PM Denies Wanting To Sell Chagos Islands

90EF0101B Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French
25 Nov 89 pp 1, 7

[Article by Jean-Marc Poche: "Duval Claims Jugnauth Was Not Opposed To Selling Chagos"; passages within slantlines published in English]

[Text] Sir Gaetan Duval, leader of the PMSD [Mauritian Social Democratic Party], rekindled the debate on Diego Garcia yesterday by asserting at a rally in Beau-Bassin that Sir Anerood Jugnauth, who years ago participated in the constitutional conference as leader of the /Independent Forward Block [IFB]/, had not been opposed to selling the Chagos archipelago.

"Both IFB and the PT [Labor Party] were willing to sell Diego for 40 million rupees," alleged Duval, who claimed he resigned as minister of housing at the time to more effectively oppose the sale.

Prime Minister Jugnauth immediately denied the accusation, which he described as "crazy." He said the Diego Garcia question was never on the negotiating table at the conference. It had been discussed outside the conference by Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, who was prime minister at the time, and the British government. "It was only after concluding an agreement on the subject that Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam informed us that Great Britain would be using Diego Garcia for communications purposes," said Jugnauth, pointing out that anyone who attended the conference could attest to this fact.

Meanwhile, the youth wing of the MSM [Mauritius Socialist Movement] announced the launching of a poster campaign demanding retrocession of the Chagos archipelago and dismantling of the Diego Garcia base.

*** Appointment of New NIU Director Announced**

90EF0091A Port Louis THE SUN in French
13 Nov 89 p 5

[Text] Mr Chabeelall Seewoosurrun has been appointed director of the National Intelligence Unit (NIU) with the rank of Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP). He was advised of this appointment by the Police Service Commission (PSC) on Thursday afternoon.

Mr Seewoosurrun, who is married, has a daughter of 22 who works in the accounting section of Shopping Paradise at the airport.

The new DCP joined the police force on 5 May 1959. He served in various police force units before being transferred to the Special Branch in 1965. He remained there until 1980, when he was appointed chief inspector of police and was transferred to the Special Mobile Force (SMF).

In 1986, he was transferred to the NIU to succeed Mr Mungroosingh. At that time he worked under Mr Guruduth Baramdoyal, the director of the organization. During the work of the Rault Commission in 1986, Mr Seewoosurrun was sent to India on two occasions to investigate drug trafficking.

He was promoted to superintendent of police in March of 1987, following the departure of Mr Baramdoyal for the general headquarters, when he took charge of the NIU.

The new NIU director, who is 50, plans to effect improvements within this unit, and will devote an initial period to being briefed.

*** Press Corrects Report of Iraqi Mission**

90EF0091B Port Louis THE SUN in French
15 Nov 89 p 8

[Text] In answer to a question posed by MMM [Mauritian Militant Movement] Deputy Bashir Khodabux, Sir Anerood Jugnauth told the Parliament yesterday that the recent mission carried out by Minister Clarel Malherbe in Iraq was not an official one, and that no official delegation was dispatched.

The prime minister explained that on last October 10, the embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Dar-es-Salaam sent an invitation to the minister of external affairs. The invitation, coming from the Regional Command of the Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party, was addressed to the following parties, which were asked to send one representative each to participate in the celebrations scheduled to

mark the rebuilding of the town of Faw: (1) the Mauritius Socialist Movement (MSM), (2) the Mauritian Social Democratic Party (PMSD), and (3) the Mauritius Labor Party (PT).

Sir Anerood added that minister Malherbe attended the celebrations in his capacity as secretary general of the Labor Party, and not in his official capacity. He explained that the MSM and PMSD were also represented as parties.

The prime minister also noted that the sum of 38,000 rupees (1,560 pounds sterling) was provided to the minister for this "party-level, not official, visit," and that this allocation has been repaid.

*** Economy Requires Technology, Foreign Know-How**

90EF0065A Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French
26 Oct 89 p 5

[Article by Michel Sailhan under the column "Mauritius as Seen by the AFP"]

[Text] The Mauritian economy, which has overheated as a result of rapid development, will have to import skilled and unskilled labor, says the Mauritian minister of economy and finance, Mr Vishnu Lutchmeenaraidoo.

Often compared to Asia's "economic tigers" (Taiwan, Hong-Kong, etc.), Mauritius moved from 22 percent unemployment to full employment in 1986 when only 5 percent of the population was unemployed. It was in that year that an IMF-supervised economic recovery plan began to make itself felt.

This year, the small island in the Indian Ocean has progressed toward the almost unique situation of "over-employment," hovering between 0 and 3 percent unemployment, which makes normal renewal of the labor force impossible.

"We must accept the idea that we will have to import workers," the Mauritian minister stated in an interview last week with the AFP.

"We are all 'imported' people—either former slaves or workers under contract," the minister pointed out, referring to the various components of the Mauritian population from the Creoles to the Indian and Chinese communities. A true "rainbow" society of more than 1 million inhabitants.

Mauritius lacks designers, engineers and technicians, particularly in the textile industry, one of the island's most important economic sectors along with its traditional sugarcane industry and tourism.

The finance minister believes, however, that labor should be imported in response to "specific calls, on a project-by-project basis and for limited durations, at least in the case of unskilled labor."

The importation of labor must also obey strictly professional criteria and "profitability" norms, according to

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo. The Mauritian authorities are fearful that a large influx of workers from a particular country or ethnic group could threaten the social balance among the island's different communities.

The labor shortage acts as a brake on the country's economic growth and is exerting a pressure on salaries that the minister termed "unbearable."

In 3 years, salaries have risen by about 50 percent and the government of Prime Minister Anerood Jugnauth believes this upward pressure could shrink the country's export margins to the point of forcing companies out of business.

The minister added that the real solution to the problems of the Mauritian economy will depend on the country's ability "to invest in the modernization of equipment" and improve professional training so as to raise productivity.

When Mauritius became independent in 1968, the sugar industry—which produces about 600,000 metric tons a year—accounted for 90 percent of export earnings.

Over the years, the economy became more diversified, with the creation of a free industrial zone in 1971, in particular. The free zone's financial advantages have attracted European and Indian investors. It currently employs 88,000 and its exports amounted to 0.7 billion dollars in 1988, according to official figures.

Tourism, which is the third most important sector in the economy, brought in 2.4 billion rupees (0.6 billion dollars) in 1988. Every year, about 250,000 tourists visit Mauritius, which has the reputation of being an expensive destination because of its remoteness and quality of services.

Annual per capita income has doubled since 1983, reaching 2,000 dollars in 1988, which makes it one of the highest in Africa.

* Unemployment Dropping; Ministry Report Cited

90EF0066A Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French
27 Sep 89 pp 1, 4

[Article by Dharmanand Dhooarika: "Unemployment: Less Than 5 percent; Employment Ministry Report Estimates 22,012 [as published] Unemployed at the End of April 1989"]

[Text] At the end of April 1989 Mauritius had about 20,837 unemployed officially registered, compared with 22,012 at the end of December 1988. According to a report of the Employment Service Division of the Ministry of Employment and Public Administration, in relation to the 51,653 and 33,747 unemployed in 1987 and 1988, respectively, unemployment is declining. According to an official estimate of the Ministry of Planning, considering the fact that the active labor pool had reached 446,000 toward mid-1989, the Mauritius unemployment rate may be estimated at 4.7 percent.

The decline in unemployment, which began in 1983 (74,459) was slow from 1983 to 1985, before accelerating

in the last three years. Thus, the number of unemployed went from 51,653 in April 1987 to 33,747 in April 1988. In the "Statistical Review on Unemployment" the Ministry of Employment emphasizes that the fall in the number of registered unemployed during the first four months of this year is a remarkable performance considering the fact that during this period young people ending their secondary studies entered the labor market.

In fact, the total number of new job seekers at the end of April 1989 was in the order of 5,592, compared with 4,130 at the end of last December.

Furthermore, it is noted that there is a decline in the number of agricultural workers, construction workers, and unskilled laborers seeking employment.

The Employment Service Division of the Ministry of Employment and Public Administration moreover also noted a decline in unemployment in Rodrigues. Around 1,258 inhabitants of Rodrigues registered at the Employment Bureau in April 1989, compared with 1,422 last December, and 1,836 in April 1988.

An estimated 708 job seekers between 18 and 19 years registered in April 1989. The Employment Service Division notes that there is a decline in the number of unemployed in six principal districts of the island, namely, Port Louis (2,289), Moka/Flacq (1,232; 1,416) compared with 1988.

About 14,125 men are unemployed, in relation to 6,712 women. Three hundred nine minors between 15 and 17 years are seeking employment in the government services.

In the chapter "Unemployment by Levels of Education and Sex," officials of the Employment Service Division note that "a scrutiny of the register at the end of the period under review reveals that the number of unemployed whose level of educational attainment does not go beyond the Primary School Leaving Certificate amounted to 10,789, i.e., 51.8 percent of the Register. On the other hand, 4,857 or 23.3 percent had at least a Cambridge School Certificate or its equivalent. It is to be noted also that the number of Higher School Certificate GCE AL' holders has increased by 159 as compared to the end of December 1988."

* Hiring of Foreign Workers Approved

* Labor Shortage Cited

90EF0105A Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French
10 Nov 89 pp 1, 12

[Article by Jacques David: "Green Light for Hiring of Skilled Foreign Workers"]

[Text] After reviewing a study prepared by the committee tasked to look into the problem posed by the shortage of local manpower, the government has given the green light for the temporary importation of skilled foreign workers. The committee, chaired by the minister of employment and civil service, submitted its report this week. Speaking at a

dinner at the PLM Azur hosted by the Association of Insurance Companies, Mr Seetannah Lutchmeenaraidoo, deputy prime minister and minister of financial affairs, confirmed the government's decision to permit the temporary hiring of foreign workers.

The finance minister said the country is going through a very complex phase requiring boldness and imagination, a period when everyone must make special efforts.

This phase of development requires all Mauritians to work with a positive attitude. Consequently the government can no longer sit idly before the current situation. The finance minister said it is necessary just now for Mauritius to become a "temporary reception center" [for foreign workers], because of the real challenge facing us in the years ahead. In that regard, he announced, the government has decided to put out a call for skilled manpower, in order to be able to continue the current development process and above all to deal with the shortage of skilled manpower that is greatly impeding the country's economic life. "Some decisions take a certain amount of political courage, and the prime minister has taken the initiative in dealing with a number of problems, but we are headed in the right direction," opined Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo.

On another subject, the finance minister paid tribute to the insurance companies, which he said are moving rapidly to build up a sector that someday may play as great a role in development as the banks. Earlier, he admitted having been somewhat harsh in his remarks the previous day at the opening ceremonies for the insurance industry seminar, but claimed he had gotten "carried away with my rhetoric, occasionally saying more than I intended."

* Three Sectors Authorized

90EF0105B Port Louis *THE SUN* in French
11 Nov 89 pp 1, 8

[Article: "Foreign Manpower Now Authorized in Construction, Free Zone and Hotel Sectors"; passages within slantlines published in English]

[Text] The council of ministers on Thursday approved the importation of foreign manpower in three economic sectors, as recommended by the committee of officials who studied every aspect of the question. The three sectors are construction, the free zone, and the hotel trade.

The committee, chaired by Mrs Marie-France Roussety, minister of public service and employment, heard representatives from the MEF [Mauritian Employers Federation], MEPZA, AHRIM [expansions unknown], the /General Construction Company Ltd./, Laxmanbhai, /Allied Builders, Floreal Knitwear/, the Esquel Group, /Hanna Instruments Ltd./, DWC and CHA [expansions unknown].

In its report, the committee summarized employment trends since 1983 and said about the current situation: "It is a fact that at present there is a considerable pressure on the labor market tending to push wages

upward, and thus affecting the competitiveness of our industries on the world market/."

The committee said foreign manpower is already being imported in sectors where qualified Mauritians cannot yet be found.

The committee said the construction sector fluctuates in accordance with the general level of development activity in the country. Currently, several major construction projects have been brought to a standstill by the lack of manpower, and when workers can be found they command wages much higher than one could imagine: 300 rupees per day for a bricklayer, at a time when the prescribed minimum wage is 67 rupees per day.

The committee says in the last 2 years the free zone has suffered a chronic manpower shortage that has kept 20 to 25 percent of the machinery idle for lack of workers. This has forced plants to resort to overtime, thus increasing production costs. It has also led to more mobility in the work force.

The situation in the hotel sector is now more or less the same, with the increased number of hotel rooms. However, in that sector shortages are being experienced only with respect to chefs, /hotel managers/, and /food and beverage managers/.

The government is going to keep a watchful eye on the importation of foreign manpower to make sure it does not have harmful effects on Mauritian society. The imported workers will be entitled to wages equal to those earned by Mauritian workers in the same sector, and training will have to be provided.

An employer requesting permission to employ foreign manpower will have to satisfy certain conditions. He will have to explain the project in question and specify the position the foreign worker will hold, the duration of employment, lodging arrangements, the Mauritian /counterpart/, the terms for repatriation, and conditions of employment; and provide a bank guarantee and medical certificate.

* Finance Minister on Labor Shortage, Growth

90EF0106A Port Louis *LE MAURICIEN* in French
21 Oct 89 pp 1, 12

[Article by Jean-Marc Poche]

[Text] Mr Vishnu Lutchmeenaraidoo, currently sitting in as prime minister, is taking every opportunity these days to warn Mauritians against falling prey to "xenophobic sentiments." He again raised the matter yesterday afternoon when he visited the offices of State Informatics Limited (SIL) that set up operations in the SICOM Building 2 months ago.

"Having once been newcomers to Mauritius ourselves, we should have a natural willingness to welcome foreign skills to our soil, because if we want to maintain our

economic growth rate, we will have to allow a role for foreign technology and know-how."

The minister maintained that full employment is forcing us to apply the brakes on growth so as to be able to control inflation. "With the pressure generated by labor costs, we cannot afford to encourage increased investment. Moreover, rising costs could affect our competitiveness abroad."

"One solution," the minister said, "would be to raise productivity considerably. However, we cannot expect a worker to increase his output tenfold overnight. That is why we must accept the idea of foreigners working in Mauritius during a transitional period. Our long-term survival depends on our ability to absorb foreign skills."

The finance minister made a similar statement to the AFP last week: Labor should be imported "in response to specific calls, on a project-by-project basis and for limited durations, at least in the case of unskilled labor."

The president of State Informatics Ltd., Mr Dev Manraj, had previously remarked that his company was there to prove what public authorities can accomplish when given the means. He was pleased to say that the minister of finance had given the company not only the financial means (850 million rupees) but also the vision and the ambition of becoming a regional leader in the realm of software, as well as very flexible working conditions.

The SIL has already completed five reports that will make it possible to computerize the National Pension Scheme, Income Tax offices, the Widows and Orphans Pension Scheme, police bureaus, and the ministry of construction's warehousing facility.

SIL's general manager, Mr Sexena, also addressed the audience.

Mozambique

RSA's De Klerk, Chissano Hold News Conference

MB1812151089 Maputo in English to Southern Africa
1100 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Report on news conference by South African President F.W. de Klerk and President Joaquim Chissano in Maputo on 15 December on the "Outlook Africa" program—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] First, Mr de Klerk explained the agenda of his talks with Mozambican president:

"We had in-depth discussions. They were frank and open, and positive and constructive. We dealt with on the one hand matters of bilateral interest, practical matters affecting the relationship between our two countries. On the other hand we also concentrated on the needs of the region of southern Africa. We concentrated inter alia on the need for a pragmatic approach, for the need to build on common interests which we all share in southern Africa, bilaterally and multilaterally.

"We also discussed the impact of what is happening especially in central and Eastern Europe, on Africa. And I would like to say we came to the conclusion that it is necessary that we take cognizance of what is happening there and that we realize that unless we in southern Africa also find a way to cooperate, especially in the economic sphere, we might find ourselves between fires in that regard. And therefore, our two countries, as far as [the Republic of] South Africa [RSA] is concerned, will continue expanding our cooperation and will on the basis of noninterference in each other's internal affairs, continue also to address in our discussions from time to time the need for wider cooperation in the region between also our two countries and other countries."

Mr de Klerk was then asked whether he's got the entire support of the South African Defense Force for his policy:

"There is no question that the South African Defense Force is loyal to the country, to the Republic, and there is no rift between the government and the Defense Force of any nature whatsoever."

What Mr de Klerk comment on the last declaration [as heard] by the South African defense minister, Magnus Malan, about the country's Defense Force's involvement in the destabilization of neighboring countries?

"I doubt whether he stated it in exactly that way. South Africa is constructive in its approach with regard to southern Africa. I have been part of the government for many years, and we have never adopted the policy of destabilization."

In his introduction, Mr de Klerk said: We discussed with Mr Chissano matters which affect the relationship between the two countries. Which, Mr de Klerk?

"Well, obviously we have a common interest with regard to economic cooperation, with regard to such matters as Cahora Bassa, South Africa taking the supply of electricity which can be generated there, the need to ensure that there will be continued supply of such electricity, practical matters such as improving the actual situation on the ground for the flow of people and goods between Maputo and South Africa. That sort of practical things."

Questioned about whether they discussed about the peace process in Mozambique, Mr de Klerk replied:

"We talked with regard to the problems on a basis of noninterference, yes. Mozambique has certain problems; we have certain problems. We are involved, as Mozambique is involved, in efforts and initiatives to improve internally the situation, and as neighbors we have an interest, but on the basis of noninterference. Yes, we had a discussion and exchanged information in that regard."

What does Mr de Klerk have to say on South Africa's support to the MNR [Mozambique National Resistance] bandits?

"I can just categorically say that the Government of South Africa does not aid Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] in any way whatsoever. We have an open society. We do not monitor the private sector to that extent. They are free to move things, to lodge flight plans. I therefore cannot give a categorical undertaking that nothing happens from private sources inside South Africa, but I give the assurance that we are against that and that we will take whatever reasonable steps we can to prevent that because it is our policy that it must not take place."

Mr de Klerk was also asked whether he was afraid that the MNR could eventually turn its guns against South Africa:

"I am not afraid of anything. It sounds [pauses] I don't want to sound a strong, armed man, but really, I do not live in fear, I do not lie awake at night because of any fears. What is important is that legitimate governments should talk to each other in building out cooperation in the region. What is important is that in those countries where you do not have the situation of full internal reconciliation, that efforts should be made to attain reconciliation so as to reach a situation in all the countries of southern Africa where all the attention and energy can be focused on the development tasks which we have instead of misuse on dividing that energy and fighting among each other."

Mr de Klerk declined to reveal the issues he discussed with the jailed ANC [African National Congress] leader, Nelson Mandela:

"I have not made public the contents of our discussions and I do not intend to do so today."

[Unidentified correspondent] "Why?"

"For the simple reason that I have had the discussion and it is not a public discussion."

President Chissano then explained that Mozambique supports changes in search of eliminating the system of apartheid in South Africa:

"And we encouraged all the efforts which the Government of South Africa and President de Klerk may be taking in order to ensure that apartheid and racial discrimination are eliminated in South Africa. We encouraged also all the groups and forces which are fighting for that to take advantage of all that is positive and build upon that for a speedy dismantlement of apartheid. So, I don't think that we can be guided by conservatives and extremists within a world of change."

President Chissano was asked to express his feeling about the changes now taking place in South Africa:

"Well, I feel that there are positive changes and we encouraged them, and, as I said, we are prepared to do our best in order to build upon them, in order to bring more changes which may make it possible for the democratization, the true democratization of the country, at the interest of all. I mean that no minorities are going to

be oppressed by a majority in exchange of the oppression of the majority by a minority."

Chissano Announces Presidential Elections in 1991

*LD1812222689 Lisbon Domestic Service
in Portuguese 2200 GMT 18 Dec 89*

[Excerpt] Joaquim Chissano announced that general and presidential elections will be held in Mozambique in 1991. Any citizen will be able to run in these elections.

Speaking at the opening session of the summit of Lusophone African countries, the Mozambique president argued that a multiparty system is not a criterion of democracy. In Chissano's view, sub-Saharan Africa's priority is to build the nations and border inherited from colonialism.

In his speech, Joaquim Chissano only referred once to—we quote—the Renamo criminals. He preferred to use the expression: so-called Renamo. He spoke of the struggle of the African peoples against colonialism and racism as an epic. [passage omitted]

Namibia

South Africa To Reduce Walvis Bay Troop Presence

*MB1812093689 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0848 GMT 18 Dec 89*

[Text] Windhoek Dec 18 SAPA—South Africa is preparing to scale down its military presence in the disputed harbour enclave of Walvis Bay, the TIMES OF NAMIBIA newspaper reported on Monday [18 December].

The TIMES quoted an unnamed government source in Pretoria as saying this was being done as "a token of goodwill" towards independent Namibia.

It said it had received information that a large number of military personnel, mainly from the navy, were preparing to leave Walvis Bay before the end of the year.

The withdrawal would commence with a radical reduction in the naval and air force presence at the town, followed by the withdrawal of an unspecified number of troops from the Rooikop Army Base, the newspaper said.

Military commanders at Walvis Bay refused to confirm the report, but denied that a troop build-up was taking place as reported earlier.

Walvis Bay is regarded as Namibian territory by the United Nations and just about all the political parties in the country, despite South Africa's claims to sovereignty over the only deep-water port in its soon-to-be independent colony.

For practical purposes, and because South Africa [SA] threatened to sink the process if the port became an

issue, the matter was left out of the United Nations settlement plan for Namibia, to be dealt with after independence.

A spokesman for the SA Defence Force, referring to reports from Namibia, denied in Pretoria that the Defence Force would be withdrawn from Walvis Bay or that there was any build-up of forces in the area.

Zimbabwe

Mozambique's Chissano Extends Stay Until 17 Dec

MB1612181789 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1807 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Harare Dec 16 SAPA—Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano who arrived in Zimbabwe on Saturday [16 Saturday] for consultations with President Robert Mugabe on regional and international issues is expected to leave on Sunday [17 December].

Mr Chissano, who was earlier just expected to make a brief stop-over and proceed to Cape Verde after meeting Mr Mugabe at the Harare International Airport, has apparently changed plans.

Zimbabwe Foreign Affairs Minister Nathan Shamuyarira said details of the two leaders meeting would not be disclosed.

Mr Shamuyarira could simply say Mr Mugabe and Mr Chissano "will discuss bilateral, regional, international issues and matters of mutual interest."

It was expected the two leaders would discuss the Mozambican peace initiative, mediated by Mr Mugabe and Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi.

Mr Chissano, who met State President F.W. de Klerk in Maputo on Friday, is also expected to brief Mr Mugabe on his discussions with the South African leader.

No Details on Talks

MB1612200689 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1900 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] President Joaquim Chissano met with his Zimbabwean counterpart, Robert Mugabe, in Harare today. No details have been given on the talks, but everything shows that the two statesmen examined the peace process in Mozambique, initiated in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, last August.

President Robert Mugabe and Kenyan head of state Daniel arap Moi have been acting as mediators in the

talks between Mozambican religious leaders and the ringleaders of the so-called Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance].

Today's meeting between Joaquim Chissano and Robert Mugabe comes after the Mozambican head of state's meeting with his South African counterpart, Frederik de Klerk, in Maputo yesterday.

President Chissano is in Harare en route to Cape Verde, where he will attend another summit meeting of the five Lusophone African countries, to begin on 18 December. The Praia meeting, which will bring together the presidents from Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe, will examine the prevailing situation in southern Africa, particularly in Mozambique and Angola, two countries that have mostly experienced the war of aggression and destabilization.

Regarding Angola, it is known that President Jose Eduardo dos Santos will present at the summit of the five new information on the Angolan peace process. Recent statements by Jose Eduardo dos Santos indicated this peace process is being hindered by U.S. interference and the less clear role of the mediator, Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko. What is more, the leaders of the five Lusophone African countries will examine cooperation within the group. This cooperation has not reached the desired levels because of the internal difficulties facing each one of the five countries.

Cape Verdian Prime Minister Pedro Pires says concrete actions must be carried out as part of cooperation among the five so that their solidarity may become more real.

Departs 17 Dec

MB1712091589 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0908 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Harare Dec 17 SAPA—Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano who arrived in Harare on Saturday [16 December] evening for consultations with President Robert Mugabe on bilateral, regional and international issues left Zimbabwe early Sunday morning, a government official said on Sunday.

Mr Chissano is expected to have proceeded to Cape Verde for a meeting of African leaders from Portuguese speaking countries after his overnight stop-over from Lusaka where he met Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, ZIANA national news agency reports.

Zimbabwe foreign affairs minister, Mr Nathan Shamuyarira said on Sunday details of Mr Chissano and Mr Mugabe's meeting would not be disclosed but said they centered on "bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern".

Benin

Situation 'Gradually Returning to Normal'

AB1712195689 Paris AFP in French 1450 GMT
15 Dec 89

[Text] Cotonou, 15 Dec (AFP)—The situation is gradually returning to normal in Benin which has been shaken since last week by a series of demonstrations hostile to President Mathieu Kerekou regime. However, many industrial actions continued to cripple most ministries, public services, and schools in the country today's observers in Cotonou noted.

Actually, Benin seems to be deep in expectation as the Beninese authorities have not yet officially announced the decision made yesterday in Paris by lenders. But all the Beninese have listened to foreign radios and have known since this morning that these lenders agreed to grant the country additional aid and speed up the disbursement of the financial aid promised. This aid is said to total 7 billion CFA [African Financial Community] francs (Fr140 million), it was learned from a reliable source. This assistance should enable the Beninese authorities to pay the salary arrears owed some 50,000 civil servants for 1989. The salary delays by the Beninese State have sometimes reached 6 months and are the cause of the social unrest shaking the country since the beginning of the year.

The first signs of some degree eased tensions were perceptible this morning. The large deployment of soldiers and policemen in the streets of Cotonou to forestall demonstrations has been substantially reduced, it was observed here by an AFP correspondent. Postal workers, who on 13 December had gone on strike in solidarity with the civil servants, have for their part resumed work this morning. A representative of their union told AFP that they had been given assurances about the payment of civil servants' salaries, but warned that they will stop work again if there was no rapid solution. Also there was normal activity at the Ministries of Information, Defense, Interior, Higher Education, Commerce, Tourism, and Mines.

On the other hand, several other ministries were paralyzed by the strike action by the civil servants, notably the Ministries of Finance, Transport, Labor, Health, Planning, and Foreign Affairs, as well as the headquarters of the state treasury, revenue, and accounts office. Also, most academic institutions in Cotonou and in the principal towns of the country remained closed.

The release of the first instalment of the financial package granted to Benin has begun. Officials of the Benin Commercial Bank (BCB) have indicated that they have received 400 million CFA francs and announced their intention to start payments effective 19 December to holders of 51,000 private accounts with deposits less than 50,000 CFA francs (Fr1,000).

The BCB, the country's main financial institution, has been under judicial regulation since the beginning of 1989 and all its accounts have been frozen as part of the action. The BCB, a unique case in the annals of world banking practice, lost an equivalent of 43 times the amount of its initial working capital of 1.5 billion CFA francs. The substantial financial support granted by the creditors should enable President Kerekou to defuse the crisis, but he will still need to play for time, according to observers.

Members of the World Bank delegation to Cotonou had, in fact, announced that the entire financial package granted Benin would not be released for Christmas but, on the other hand, all must be settled before the end of the year. The opposition in exile appeared very reserved about the granting of this exceptional aid. According to them, the crisis situation should continue in Benin, since the regime has proved to be incapable of ruling the country. "How long will the creditors agree to pump funds into Benin?" one of them notably asked himself this morning in the presence of the AFP correspondent in Abidjan.

Last week, Benin officially renounced the Marxist-Leninist ideology which has "guided" the country's economic and political life since 1974. Moreover, President Kerekou, in power since 26 October 1972 and reelected last August for another 5 years, has promised that a new constitution will be elaborated to guarantee the separation of the party from the state and the nomination of a prime minister. All these reforms should be implemented from January 1990. In addition, he pledged to bring morality into public life and has just charged a special commission with the task of probing the assets of the regime's dignitaries.

Exile Returns, Meets Kerekou

AB1512223989 Cotonou Domestic Service in French
1930 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] President Mathieu Kerekou granted an audience this morning to the Gabonese minister of labor, employment, human resources and professional training, Mr Louis Gaston Mayila, and our compatriot, Adrien Houngbedji, who is indeed setting foot to Beninese soil, for the first time in 15 years. Mr Louis Gaston Mayila told Isidore Zinsou that he had brought a message from President Omar Bongo to the head of state.

[Begin recording] [Mayila] Indeed, I brought a message from His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo to his brother, His Excellency Mathieu Kerekou, the president of the People's Republic of Benin. So I delivered this message to the head of state addressed to him by his brother. It is said that the talks were lengthy. Yes indeed, but it is not a diplomatic practice to reveal to the press the contents of messages exchanged between heads of state. You have noted that on the delegation accompanying me, we have Mr Houngbedji, who is a native and son of this country. So, it can be supposed from the talks which I had with the head of state... [changes thought] that we had with

the head of state, since Mr Hounbedji took part personally in the audience. Talks were on the excellent relations linking our two countries, the regular messages which the two heads of state are in the habit of exchanging, and, of course, the audience concerned Mr Hounbedji, since he participated in this meeting.

[Zinsou] Since Benin is currently experiencing a social and economic crisis, can one suppose that the message you brought to the head of state mentioned this current situation that Benin is going through and some support from Gabon?

[Mayila] I cannot enter into the details of the message. All that I can say is that President Bongo is in the habit of saying that it is in times of need that one knows one's true friends. So, from this premise, it can be supposed that President Bongo's message to his brother was in that regard, but which I can personally not reveal to the press. Yes, you talk about the situation Benin is experiencing. President Bongo keenly, and, I would say, daily follows this situation, and that it is probably impossible that he should send a message without mentioning this. But it is not diplomatic practice to reveal the details of a message between heads of state. [end recording]

Mr Adrien Hounbedji, who is a beneficiary of the recent amnesty measures, also held talks with the head of state. This is the first time that this compatriot has returned to his country in 15 years. Mr Adrien Hounbedji told Isidore Zinsou that he came to take the pulse of events in Benin.

[Begin recording] [Hounbedji] it was essentially a question of the joy and emotion that I feel in returning to my country after an absence of 15 years. The emotion was such that it dominated any other considerations. I am returning to my country at a time when, on the one hand, it is experiencing a crisis, and also at a time when new changes have started. In a word, I came to take the pulse, in order to see how these new trends are proceeding.

[Zinsou] So there are new changes, and new mutations. How do you personally evaluate these changes, these political, economic, and institutional changes in Benin?

[Hounbedji] I am a person who says exactly what he thinks. I had already, in a recent interview granted to JEUNE AFRIQUE, indicated which orientation, options, and changes were desirable for my country. I realize that these changes are officially recommended, therefore reforms are going to be initiated. As a result, I cannot but give a big hand to these new changes that result from the joint meeting held on 7 December between the Central Committee, the National Executive Council and the Standing Committee of the National Revolutionary Assembly. I can only express pleasure over the decisions that have been announced which usher the country into a new era of freedom and democracy.

[Zinsou] Can one suppose that with the announcement of this package of measures that have already been laid out, that you are perhaps going to return to our country to devote your daily activities to its development?

[Hounbedji] I would rather say that I will contribute to the regeneration of my country within the context of the new institutions that will be established, insofar as they herald the advent of democracy, freedom, and liberalism.

[Zinsou] What concrete contribution are you going to make in the short term to your country?

[Hounbedji] We shall certainly see. We are awaiting the implementation of all that has been announced. It is then that we shall see. I am a readily available man. [end recording]

Media Workers Begin Strike

AB1812132289 Libreville Africa No 1 in French
1230 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] In Benin, journalists and employees of the National Radio and Television Authority have followed the example of the salaried workers in the other sectors of the civil service. This morning, they began a 48-hour strike in order to obtain the payment of their salaries and various allowances. The motion spelling out the details of their demands was signed by 182 of the 330 workers of the Radio and Television Authority and presented last Friday [15 December] to the minister of information, who is said to have finally accepted it. The workers of the electronic media, for whom this is the first strike, have set up a skeleton staff and warned that they will not accept any retaliatory measures during or after their strike action.

Civil Servants To Strike 19 Dec

AB1812190389 London BBC World Service in English
1709 GMT 18 Dec 89

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Street protests have now died down in Benin after the recent mass demonstrations against government policies. The authorities cracked down with partial success and the security forces are now keeping a low profile. But that doesn't mean the trouble for the government is all over. On the contrary, the country is still beset by strikes and the latest workers to come out are radio and television employees. From Benin, Karim Okanla telexed this report.

[Begin studio announcer recording] Today, journalists and staff of Benin's radio and television station began a 48-hour strike over demands for several months of salary arrears, and tomorrow [19 December], key workers in the financial sector are also scheduled to stop work. It's the first time in Benin's history that national radio and television journalists have taken strike action. In the past, they have always been considered to be the most loyal civil servants. The station has been broadcasting light European and American music with news bulletins in the morning and during the lunch hour. The bulletins only cover world news and nothing is mentioned about Benin. Jingles and the usual revolutionary rhetorics are also excluded in the programs.

Civil servants in the financial sector, including those of state insurance companies, met last Friday [15 December] to discuss Benin's deepening economic crisis. They agreed to begin their strike tomorrow [19 December] and promised to prolong it if the government did not take immediate steps. Their action will create further problems in the processing of civil servants' pay checks after donor countries gave Benin 8.5 billion CFA [African Financial Community] francs last week. If civil servants do not get paid during Christmas, this may lead to unpredictable consequences.

The other side of Benin's sad story is that the country is now unable to pay further interest on loans granted by multilateral agencies like the OPEC Fund and the West African Development Bank. At the end of November this year, Benin already owed these organizations about 4.8 billion CFA francs in arrears on loan interests. [end recording]

The Gambia

Jawara on 'Rapid Normalization' of Senegal Ties

AB1812205489 Paris AFP in French 1945 GMT
15 Dec 89

[Text] Banjul, 15 Dec (AFP)—Gambian President Sir Dawda Jawara stated today that his brief visit yesterday [14 December] to Dakar where he held talks with Senegalese Head of State Abdou Diouf has contributed to "breaking the ice and reducing the 2-month tension between the two brotherly countries (The Gambia and Senegal)."

Sir Dawda Jawara told a news conference here today that he was optimistic about a rapid normalization of the relations between the two countries. Relations cooled in the wake of the freezing of the Senegambian Confederation decided by President Diouf last August and followed by the strict enforcement by Senegal of customs regulations and restrictions on the transfer of foreign currency. These measures resulted in a shortage of spareparts, lubricants, and fuel as well as CFA [African Financial Community] francs (the only foreign currency in the region).

The Gambian head of state also said his visit to Dakar had not been prompted by the pressure that Senegal has applied on his country for 2 months now. Instead, it was prompted by "The Gambia's desire to establish relations of good-neighborliness between the two brotherly countries." He indicated that in Dakar, he held "very thorough discussions" with President Diouf but failed to disclose the contents.

Asked whether or not Senegal "owes The Gambia a grudge" for not having met its confederal commitments, Sir Dawda replied that his country has always met such commitments. He said his country proved this by letting Senegal head the presidency, the secretariat, the headquarters, and the Armed Forces of the confederation. He further said that despite the many difficulties, there has

been a lot of progress in his country's bid to join the West African Monetary Union, UMOA.

On The Gambia's attitude toward the Casamance separatists in Senegal, President Jawara stated that his country will strictly enforce the bilateral security and defense agreements signed with the Senegalese Government. [Under the banner of a clandestine movement, the Casamance separatists in the southern province have been demanding the independence of that Senegalese region.]

Questioned on accusations leveled by the Senegalese press against The Gambia, which is suspected of planning to set up an "anti-Senegal front" with Mauritania, which is in open conflict with Senegal, Sir Dawda categorically denied the creation of such a front, adding that his country was simply honoring its international commitments by helping displaced persons transiting on its territory. (Editor's Note: These persons are Mauritians who had fled Senegal following last April's Senegal-Mauritania incidents). Sir Dawda further said Mauritania had offered to sell and had actually sold fuel and certain basic commodities to The Gambia when Senegal enforced restrictive measures. Lastly, President Jawara said no date has been set for his next meeting with his Senegalese counterpart.

The brief visit which the Gambian head of state paid to Dakar yesterday was not given much publicity. This demonstrates Senegal's willingness to play down the event, observers noted in Dakar.

No statement was made and no official communique was published after the visit. Furthermore, Sir Dawda flew into Dakar and back on a regular flight, which is a departure from an old practice whereby the Senegalese presidential plane was always made available for his trips between the two countries. Lastly, the visit was given very little coverage in the official media organizations, which announced it laconically.

According to observers, this attitude on the part of Senegal is apparently proof of the chill in Senegambian relations since the freezing of the Senegambian Confederation late in September. It also indicates Senegal's determination to make Banjul understand that times have changed.

Mali

CPSU Delegation Arrives for Visit 16 Dec

AB1712160789 Bamako Domestic Service in French
2000 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] A delegation of the CPSU led by Mr (Zonoterev), party first secretary for the Aktyubinsk Region, arrived late this afternoon in our capital. The delegation was met on arrival at the Bamako-Senou Airport by Mr Mbaye Ag Mohamed, the assistant organizing secretary of the Central Executive Bureau [BEC], and His Excellency Aleksandr Trofimov, the Soviet ambassador in Mali. During its stay in Mali, the CPSU delegation will have a

working session with the BEC's external relations secretary and pay courtesy calls on some BEC members as well as visit the Party National School. Finally it will go to Koutiala to visit the village pool of the fanikos [traditional laundrymen].

Senegal

Police Arrest Opposition Leader, Disperse Crowd

AB1612215089 Paris AFP in French 2046 GMT
16 Dec 89

[Text] Dakar, 16 Dec (AFP)—Mr Landing Savane, the secretary general of the "AND-JEF-Revolutionary Movement for a New Democracy" (MNRD, Marxist opposition), was arrested this afternoon in Dakar while he was getting ready to hold a political rally in a working-class district in Dakar, despite a ban by the Interior Ministry. Mr Amadou Guiro, the secretary general of the Socialist Workers Organization (OST, Marxist opposition) who was also to participate in the meeting, was taken in for questioning by security forces along with militants of the AND-JEF-MRND, it was disclosed by militants of the Marxist movement.

Mr Savane was a candidate in the February 1988 Senegalese presidential elections won by President Abdou Diouf. Elements of the Mobile Intervention Group (GMI, police) used teargas this afternoon to disperse militants, supporters, and several idlers who came to attend this demonstration. The militants and idlers stoned the security forces and buses serving this working-class district, breaking their windshields.

An official of the "AND-JEF-MRND," contacted by AFP this evening, justified the holding of the rally by the fact that its banning by the Dakar Region prefect was not based on "valid reasons."

An earlier meeting of Mr Landing Savane's party had been banned on 4 November by the Senegalese authorities, who held the view that it was "of a nature to disturb public order," it will be recalled. In a statement published by the government daily newspaper LE SOLEIL, "the Senegalese interior minister recalled that the freedom to hold public meetings has always been recognized in Senegal "subject to prior notice." Moreover, he stated that street gatherings are "subject to [word indistinct] prior permission and that wide-ranging powers have been given to the administrative authorities to ban a proposed function if the latter is of a nature that might disrupt public order."

Opposition Leader Released

AB1712203389 Paris AFP in French 1806 GMT
17 Dec 89

[Text] Dakar, 17 Dec (AFP)—The leader of the AND-JEF political movement (Marxist opposition), Mr Landing Savane, was released yesterday evening after his arrest in the afternoon for organizing a political rally banned by the Senegalese Ministry of Interior. In a telephone conversation today with AFP, Mr Savane, stated that four other persons

including a woman and a student had been released with him, but added that six other persons arrested with him still remained in detention.

Mr Savane is of the view that he is liable to be charged. The Marxist leader, an unsuccessful candidate in the last Senegalese presidential elections which saw the victory of Mr Abdou Diouf's Socialist Party, added that as a result of the intervention of the security forces, who, according to him, were present at the rally grounds even before the arrival of the militants, one opposition leader still remain hospitalized this afternoon at the casualty ward of Dakar Central Hospital.

According to Mr Landing Savane, yesterday's rally, organized after being banned by the Interior Ministry, was simply a peaceful protest against the ban.

Opposition Journalist Said Freed

AB1812174789 Paris AFP in English 1729 GMT
18 Dec 89

[Text] Dakar, Dec 18 (AFP)—A journalist on an opposition paper in Senegal detained for almost 10 weeks in connection with a fake letter to the paper has been freed, legal sources said Monday [18 December].

SOP1, the organ of the Democratic Party whose leader Abdoulaye Wade is President Abdou Diouf's main rival, printed a purported reader's letter highly critical of the president's powerful French-born Secretary-General Jean Collin.

Journalist Madior Sokhna Ndiaye discovered that the signatory was not the real author of the letter, but the authorities thereupon held him responsible and put him in central prison here despite protests from a press union.

Togo

France's Rocard Discusses Role in Comoros

AB1612115689 Paris AFP in French 2026 GMT
15 Dec 89

[Text] Lome, 15 Dec (AFP)—Prime Minister Michel Rocard today justified the arrival of French soldiers to the Comoros by the need to ensure the "security of a certain number of French citizens." In a statement to the press in Lome, the prime minister asserted that this operation does not constitute an "intervention" in the internal affairs of the Comoros, "a free and independent state."

"France did not have to intervene in the Comoros. We only gave a helping hand in the process of a return to a more normal situation as far as democracy is concerned," because "this small archipelago was taken over by a group of European mercenaries including a Frenchman, which does not honor anybody," Mr Rocard added.

France negotiated with South Africa, "quite influential with these men, unfortunately," for the "transfer of the central responsibility for the maintenance of order in Comoros. We agreed to carry out this substitution operation because there are a certain number of French citizens in the Comoros," and France is responsible for "their security," he concluded.

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